CLAIMS

I Claim:

1.   1. A method for formatting text in a document comprising the following
2. steps:
3.   (a) placing bounding shapes around each word in the text;
4.   (b) situating a first word in a first valid location within a page; and,
5.   (c) situating subsequent words in subsequent valid locations on the page,
6. wherein once any word is situated a bounding shape for the word sets out an
7. area invalid for additional word placement.

1.   2. A method as in claim 1 wherein step (a) includes the following substep:
2.   (a.1) merging space characters with a following word.

1.   3. A method as in claim 1 wherein step (b) includes the following substeps:
2.   (b.1) checking a first location on the page for placement of the first word,
3. and
4.   (b.2) when the first location is invalid for text, checking a next location until
5. the first valid location is found for placement of the first word.

1.   4. A method as in claim 1 wherein step (c) includes the following substeps:
2.   (c.1) checking a next location for placement of a subsequent word;
3.   (c.2) when the next location is invalid for text, checking a next location until
4. a valid location is found for placement of the subsequent word; and,
5.   (c.3) repeating substep (b.1) and substep (b.2) for additional subsequent
6. words until there are no more subsequent words to place.

1.   5. A method as in claim 1 additionally comprising the following step:
2.   (d) when an image is placed in an area occupied by placed words, marking
3. the area invalid for text and reformatting the text by repeating steps (b) and (c),
4. the area marked invalid being defined by a bounding shape for the image.

1.   6. A method as in claim 1 additionally comprising the following step
2. performed before step (b):
3.   (d) processing text code that indicates which locations within the page are
4. available for text placement.

1.   7. A method as in claim 6 wherein in step (d) the text code allows

2   specification of a bounding shape for a block of text.

1   8. A method as in claim 6 wherein in step (d) the text code allows marking
2   of areas within a page as being invalid for text placement.

1   9. A method as in claim 6 wherein in step (d) the text code allows marking
2   of an area within a shape as being valid for text placement.

1   10. A method as in claim 1 wherein step (c) includes the following
2   substeps:
3   (c.1) checking a next location for placement of a subsequent word, the next
4   location being at an end of a previous word,
5   (c.2) when the next location is invalid for text, checking a next location for
6   placement of the subsequent word until a valid location for placement of the
7   subsequent word is found, and
8   (c.3) repeating substep (b.1) and substep (b.2) for additional subsequent
9   words until there are no more subsequent words to place.

1   11. A method for formatting text in a document comprising the following
2   steps:
3   (a) placing bounding shapes around each word in the text;
4   (b) checking a next location for placement of a word;
5   (c) when the next location is invalid for text, checking a next location until a
6   valid location for placement of the word is found; and,
7   (d) repeating step (b) and step (c) for subsequent words until there are no
8   more words to place, wherein once any word is situated a bounding shape for the
9   word sets out an area invalid for additional word placement.

1   12. A method as in claim 11 wherein step (a) includes the following
2   substep:
3   (a.1) merging space characters with a following word.

1   13. A method as in claim 11 additionally comprising the following step:
2   (e) when an image is placed in an area occupied by placed words, marking
3   the area invalid for text and reformatting the text by repeating steps (b), (c) and
4   (d), the area marked invalid being defined by a bounding shape for the image.

1   14. A method as in claim 11 additionally comprising the following step
2   performed before step (b):
3   (e) processing text code that indicates which locations within the page are
4   available for text placement.

1   15. A method as in claim 14 wherein in step (e) the text code allows
2   specification of a bounding shape for a block of text.

1   16. A method as in claim 14 wherein in step (e) the text code allows
2   marking of areas within a page as being invalid for text placement.

1   17. A method as in claim 14 wherein in step (e) the text code allows
2   marking of an area within a shape as being valid for text placement.

1   18. A method as in claim 11 wherein when performing step (b) for
2   subsequent words, the next location is at an end of a previous word.

1   19. Storage media that stores software which when executed performs a
2   method for formatting text in a document comprising the following steps:
3   (a) placing bounding shapes around each word in the text;
4   (b) checking a next location for placement of a word;
5   (c) when the next location is invalid for text, checking next locations until a
6   valid location is found for placement of the word, wherein once any word is placed
7   a bounding shape for the word sets out an area invalid for additional word
8   placement; and,
9   (d) repeating step (b) and step (c) for subsequent words until there are no
10   more words to place.

1   20. Storage media as in claim 19 wherein the method additionally
2   comprises the following step performed before step (b):
3   (e) processing text code that indicates which locations within the page are
4   available for text placement.